

COURTLAND CLIPPINGS

WINTER 2018



7450 14 Mile Rd.
Rockford, MI 49341
www.courtlandtwp.org

facebook.com/courtlandtwp

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday
9:00-Noon & 1:00-4:30pm
CLOSED FRIDAYS

PHONE: (616) 866-0622

FAX: (616) 866-3451

BURN PERMITS:

firechief@courtlandtwp.org
or call/text (616) 813-2691

BUILDING PERMITS OBTAINED AT:

Imperial Municipal Services
(616) 863-9294

ELECTRICAL PERMITS THROUGH:

Casey Kalee (616) 874-6289

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

SUPERVISOR: Mike Krygier

TREASURER & ZA*: Colleen Brown

CLERK: Sandra Frandsen

TRUSTEES: Matt McConnon, Mary Ann Andersen, Kimberly McIntyre, Michelle Mojzuk

ASSESSOR: Jane Kolbe

*Zoning Administrator

MEETING SCHEDULE

All meetings at 7:00 PM

TOWNSHIP BOARD: 1st Wednesday

PLANNING COMMISSION: 3rd Tuesday

ZBA: 2nd Wednesday

HOLIDAY HOURS

TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED:

Christmas: December 25-26, 2017

New Year's Day: January 1, 2018



DOG LICENSES

Licenses may be purchased at the Kent County Animal Shelter, various veterinary offices and Township office. 1-year and 3-year licenses are available depending on the rabies expiration date. Call (616) 632-7300 or visit www.accesskent.com

SUPERVISOR NOTES

We have been made aware of two possible positive PFAS test results in Courtland Township. One is located off Peninsula Dr. and the other is just north of 10 Mile Rd. on Myers Lake Ave. Both tests resulted in very low concentrations of PFAS, under 10 parts per trillion (PPT), well below the benchmark set by the MDEQ.

It is our understanding the samples were drawn by Gordon Water, a local water treatment company, and sent to a certified lab for PFAS testing. The MDEQ is not disputing the result, but they are unable to determine how the samples were collected. While not validating the results, the MDEQ stated if a much higher result is attained (30 or 40 PPT) they would like to be notified.

Gordon is currently charging the private home owners \$300 to test for PFAS. Fleis & VandenBrink, an engineering company in Grand Rapids, follows scientific protocols for collection and will test private homes for \$500 a home (minimum 10 homes) per the MDEQ.

In closing, there are still no identified dump sites in Courtland Township. The MDEQ and the Kent County Health Department are handling all official investigations and the testing in this matter.

We also are finishing up our Disc Golf course near the Township Hall. Thank you to Rockford Community Endowment for grant monies received to offset the cost.

Courtland Township also purchased the old fishery on 10 Mile Rd. with plans of making this area a park. 90% of the purchase price was funded by grants from Ducks Unlimited, the NAWCA Grant Land Acquisition, and Schrems Trout. Thanks to Josh Zuiderveen for his assistance with this.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Mike Krygier, Township Supervisor

TREASURER NOTES

Taxes are due by 4:30 PM on Wednesday, February 14, 2018; additional interest applies after this date.

Thursday March 1, 2018 all taxes still owed will be sent to the Kent County Treasurer's office. The Kent County Treasurer keeps all records of delinquent taxes and can be reached at (616) 632-7500.

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

In Person: A cashier or personal check is preferred, we do not accept Credit card payments at the office. If paying in cash, please bring exact amount.

By Mail: For a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope and your entire tax bill. It must be **received** by the Courtland Twp office by February 14, 2018. Postmark date not accepted.

Drop Box: A payment drop box is located by the front door. This box is safe and checked regularly.

Online Payments: Follow the link from our website: www.courtlandtwp.org. Credit card or e-check payments can be made. Convenience fees apply. The Treasurer's office is not responsible for payments made for the wrong parcel.

MORTGAGE ESCROW PAYMENTS: We sent your tax bill to the mortgage company IF the mortgage company requested the bill. The message "Informational Copy" means that your tax bill has been sent to your mortgage company or the Tax Service they utilize. This is printed in the "Tax Detail" portion of your tax bill on the right side. If your taxes are escrowed and your bill wasn't sent to your mortgage company, make a copy of the bill for your records and forward the original tax bill to your mortgage company.

PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE EXEMPTION: Check your tax bill to make sure you are receiving the PRE if you qualify. To qualify for this year, you must own and occupy your residence before June 1st, 2017 for Summer and Nov. 1st 2017 for Winter.

Courtland Township Annual Budget is adopted at our March Regular Township Board Meeting yearly. Our fund balances are available upon request at the Treasurer's Office.

The State of Michigan offers help to eligible taxpayers in the form of the Property Tax Credit, Home Heating Credit, and Military Tax Relief. For more information visit www.michigan.gov/taxes.

Please feel free to contact our office anytime. We welcome your questions and input. Wishing you a season of gladness and peace all year around!

Colleen Brown, Treasurer

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF'S DESK

Please change your batteries in your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. Did you know you should replace the whole detectors every 10 years? We have FREE smoke detectors at the Township Hall and fire station.

CARBON MONOXIDE: Carbon monoxide (CO) is the number one cause of poisoning death in the U.S. It is odorless, colorless, and exposure can be fatal. Common sources of CO are faulty furnaces, auto exhaust fumes, heaters, indoor stoves, gas-powered generators, cigarette smoke, and smoke from charcoal-fired stoves. Install a CO detector in addition to your smoke detector. Call 911 and leave the area if your CO alarm goes off or if you experience symptoms of CO poisoning such as flu-like symptoms, fatigue, confusion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headaches, dizziness, or weakness.

BURN PERMITS: Before you burn, email firechief@courtlandtwp.org or text/call 616-813-2961. Please let us know your name, address, phone number and the time/date you plan to burn. Remember, all burning must be done during daylight hours, and burning should be a safe distance from all buildings and tall grass and trees. Do not leave fires unattended and have a garden hose handy. Burning of tires, roofing, construction materials, treated lumber, garbage, plastics or rubber or petroleum products is prohibited.

911 EMERGENCY ADDRESS SIGNS: We can usually find your place when it's on fire, but when you are having a Medical Emergency and you do not have your address out by the road where we can see it, it might mean life or death for you or a family member.

We have Green & White reflective address signs available for \$10. Call the Township Hall order one.

CHRISTMAS TREES: Please keep them watered so they won't dry out and become a fire hazard. They may be dropped off through Jan 31st behind Fire Station (14 Mile), on the south side of the driveway. Please remove all ornaments, tinsel, and plastic bags.

Want to be a Fire Fighter? We are always looking for help! No experience is needed; we will train you! Please stop by and see me at the Station, M-F, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Please be safe and have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Steve Mojzuk, Courtland Fire Chief

FROM THE ASSESSOR'S DESK

PA 489 of 2016 abolished Dower Rights with an effective date of April 6, 2017. As of that date, our department will no longer be changing ownership on a parcel from a husband's death certificate. We will need to see a legal document with the wife in title also. Please check the ownership of your parcel with our records. If the wife is on the title already and not listed as owner in our system, please provide me a copy of the instrument (i.e. deed, land contract, court order, death certificate before April 6, 2017, etc.), and we can add her. Our older software system only accommodated the husband's name, so this may need to be updated.

For more in-depth questions pertaining to the abolishment of dower rights, you may wish to seek legal counsel.

If you have any questions on this or any assessment topics, please call or email me at jkolbe@courtlandtwp.org

Jane Kolbe, Assessor

CLERK'S CORNER

My deputy clerk, Andrea VanSetters, and I are settled into our new responsibilities. We have attended a conference and a few different trainings to further our knowledge with regard to our work here. As I reflect back on this past year coming in with no previous clerk experience, I have learned so much and still continue to learn new things! It is my goal to be a caring responsible steward for Courtland Township.

Our old election equipment was picked up in mid-August to be disposed of. We

expect delivery of our new equipment in the week following Thanksgiving. We will be participating in training on the new equipment to prepare for 2018 elections.

As I think about how grateful I am to serve my township, I hope you take a moment to give thanks for your blessings as well! Thank you for your support and respect that you share with me. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please feel free to call at (616) 866-0622.

Sandy Frandsen, Clerk

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

As the newest member of the Courtland Twp team, I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is Alan Combs and I am the new Code Enforcement Officer for the township. I was born and raised in the Rockford area and am retired from the Jackson Police Department as the Sergeant Supervisor of Investigative and Support Operations. My job here is to investigate possible violations of our Zoning Code and Ordinances.

When a complaint is received by the Township, I will do my best to see that all parties involved receive fair and courteous treatment during my investigation. If it turns out that a violation exists, my goal will be to see that the issue is resolved with a minimum of disturbance to everyone involved. "Enforcement" is the last thing we want to do. Voluntary cooperation is my goal, and I will do whatever I can to assist in the resolution of issues.

You may contact me through the Township Office or email acombs@courtlandtwp.org.

Alan Combs, Code Enforcement Officer



Cedar Springs Area Parks & Recreation

204 E. Muskegon, Cedar Springs, MI 49319
(616) 696-7320, director@csaparksandrec.com

Did you know that we offer programs for all ages?

- Monthly Luncheons with Speakers
- Fitness Classes
- Open Basketball and Volleyball for Adults
- Youth Educational and Sports Camps
- Craft and Sewing Classes
- *Coming Soon:* Swim Lessons at the Kent City Public Schools Pool

Visit www.csaparksandrec.com for
more information!

The department is sponsored by Algoma, Courtland, Nelson, and Solon Townships, the City of Cedar Springs, and the Cedar Springs Public Schools.